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FREEBRIDGE LYNN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

12/1/56

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

INCLUDING THE REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



1956

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S T A F F.

Medical Officer of Health.

J. HAMILTON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

W. R. WATKINS, C.S.I.B.

Additional Public Health Inspector.

B. W. TAYLOR, M.A.P.H.I.

Technical Assistant.

W. E. MARTIN

Housing Officer.


R. PECK.

Water Superintendent.

C. S. OSBORNE.

Clerical Assistant.

MRS. V. BRIDGES.



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THE ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the
RURAL DISTRICT OF FREEBRIDGE LYNN
FOR THE YEAR 1956.

To THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF
THE RURAL DISTRICT OF FREEBRIDGE LYNN.

Mr.Chairman, My Lord, My Lady, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration the ANNUAL REPORT on the HEALTH and SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES of the DISTRICT during the year, 1956.

The general health was good.

Cases of notifiable acute Infectious Diseases were comparatively few, consisting mostly of small local outbreaks of Measles and Whooping Cough.

Influenza was common in the first quarter of the year, and one fatality was attributed to it.

There was an unusual number of cases of Animal Anthrax (in pigs) in February as a part of a widespread outbreak. It was considered to have been caused by contaminated imported foodstuff.

The Council took its first considerable step towards implementing the proposals made in 1955, under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. Slum Clearance Resolutions and Clearance Orders were made dealing with 36 houses.

Pipe-borne water supplies from Gayton and Hillington Waterworks were available for all parishes, (with the exceptions of Middleton, Castleacre, Castle Rising and Westacre) before the end of the year.

The provision of water-supply works for Castleacre was sanctioned by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. Middleton would soon have its supply from the new mains, so only Castle Rising and Westacre remain to be dealt with, to bring every parish within the benefits of a pure water supply system.

The urgent need of Sewerage Schemes for South Wootton and West Winch was stressed by the Chairman in his address to the Council at its Annual Meeting in May.

Much building development had been going on in these places, and the problem of satisfactory sewage disposal had become so acute that he considered that there might have to be, in the general interest, a check made to further building.

Satisfactory sewage disposal could not be expected in a large community, with groups of close set houses, from anything less than a Sewage System that served the whole community.

I thank the Chairman and the Members of the Council for their kindness, and the Chief Public Health Inspector and his Staff for their co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. HAMILTON.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

V I T A L S T A T I S T I C S.

ESTIMATED MID-YEAR HOME POPULATION (REGISTRAR - GENERAL). 11,190.

<u>BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Totals.</u>
<u>Livebirths.</u>			
LEGITIMATE.	95	85	180
ILLEGITIMATE.. . . .	5	9	14
	<u>100</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>194</u>
<u>Stillbirths.</u>			
LEGITIMATE.	3	-	3
ILLEGITIMATE.. . . .	-	-	-
	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>DEATHS.</u>			
Deaths: All ages	74	74	148
Deaths: Infants under 1 year of age.			
Legitimate.	3	3	6
Illegitimate.. . . .	1	-	1
	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>
Deaths: Infants under 4 weeks of age.			
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate.. . . .	1	-	1
	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>
Deaths: Tuberculosis.. . . .	1	-	1
Cancer of Lung	2	1	3
Cancer, Other Forms.	8	8	16

RATES PER 1000 POPULATION

Births	19.36
Births (England and Wales).....	15.7
Stillbirths per 1000total Live and Stillbirths.....	15.2
Stillbirths per 1000total Live and Stillbirths. (England and Wales)...	23.
Deaths	11.5
Deaths (England and Wales).....	11.7
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1000 Live Births.....	36.
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1000 Live Births. (England and Wales)...	23.8
Maternal Mortality per 1000 total Live and Stillbirths..	nil
Maternal Mortality per 1000 total Live and Stillbirths (England and Wales)...	0.56
Deaths: Respiratory, Tuberculosis .....	.08
Deaths: Respiratory, Tuberculosis (England and Wales)...	0.1
Deaths: Cancer of Lung	0.26
Deaths: Cancer of Lung (England and Wales).....	0.4
Deaths: Cancer: Other Forms.	1.43
Deaths: Cancer: Other Forms (England and Wales).....	1.668

Births exceeded deaths by 48. The number of Births, 194, varied little from that of previous years.

There were double the number of Illegitimate Births registered compared with 7 in 1955. This year's number was exceeded in recent years in 1948, 1949 and 1951 when the numbers were, 15, 19 and 17 respectively.

There were 3 Stillbirths compared with 1 in 1955.

101 deaths were those of persons of 65 years or more, and represented 68 per cent of the mortality (143 deaths).

31 deaths in the 45 to 64, and 6 in the 25 to 44 year old groups accounted respectively for 21 and 6 per cent of the total deaths.

The remaining 5 per cent of deaths were made up of 2 deaths between the ages of 15 and 24; 1 death in the 1 to 4 years group; and the deaths of 7 infants under the age of 1 year.

57 deaths were registered as due to diseases of the Heart and Circulation. 47 of the people concerned were over 65 years old; 10 were between 45 and 64, and altogether these deaths accounted for 38.5 per cent of the years total.

22 deaths (approximately 15 per cent of all deaths) were attributed to diseases of the Respiratory System. 11 of these deaths were due to Bronchopneumonia; 9 to Influenzal Pneumonia.

The remaining ten deaths of this group were due to some form of Bronchitis.

20 of these 22 deaths were those of elderly or aged people, and approximately three quarters of them died during February and March, when the weather was severe.

Cancer and other Tumours caused 22 deaths, just less than 15 per cent of the total. Cancer was responsible for 19 deaths.

11 of the 22 persons affected were over 65 years of age, 7 between 45 and 65, and 4 between 25 and 45 years. There were 3 cases of cancer of the Lung; 2 Males aged 59 and 68 respectively, and 1 Female aged 87.

Since 1948 the Registrar General's Returns for Cancer and Other Growths have been:--

	<u>Cancer of Lung.</u>	<u>All forms of Cancer etc.</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Deaths.</u>
1948	No record	23	17.7
1949	No record	19	13.8
1950	nil	14	10.6
1951	2	18	13.6
1952	1	18	12.3
1953	2	28	22.5
1954	2	27	21.7
1955	3	20	16.8
1956	3	22	14.8

There was 1 death ascribed to Pulmonary Tuberculosis; a male aged 70.

2 deaths were the results of Motor vehicle accidents, and 7 were due to other Accidental Causes. 1 death of a young adult was a consequence of Poliomyelitis contracted in 1955.

There were 4 Suicides; all Males.

No deaths were reported arising out of Pregnancy or Childbirth. For years there has been a freedom from Maternal Mortality.

I N F A N T I L E M O R T A L I T Y.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age numbered 7, an increase of 3 over 1955.

The causes of the Infant Deaths were:-

Prematurity	3
Asphyxia	1
Atelectasis	1
Bronchopneumonia.	1
Hepatitis	1

7

6 of these deaths could be considered unavoidable. The death from Broncho-pneumonia might have been due to adverse factors in the environment.

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS ACCORDING TO DISEASES.

<u>CAUSES OF DEATHS.</u>	<u>MALES.</u>	<u>FEMALES.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
1. Tuberculosis: Respiratory.....	1	-	1
2. Tuberculosis: Other forms.....	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease.....	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria.....	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough.....	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infection.....	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis.....	-	-	-
8. Measles.....	-	-	-
9. Other Infective, and Parasitic Diseases ..	-	-	-
10. Malignant Neoplasm: Stomach	2	1	3
11. Malignant Neoplasm: Lung.....	2	1	3
12. Malignant Neoplasm: Breast.....	-	2	2
13. Malignant Neoplasm: Uterus.....	-	-	-
14. Other Malignant, and Lymphatic Neoplasms:.	6	5	11
15. Leukaemia: Aleukaemia:	1	1	2
16. Diabetes:.....	1	1	2
17. Vascular Lesions: Nervous System.....	5	14	19
18. Coronary Disease: Angina.....	5	2	7
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease.....	2	1	3
20. Other Heart Disease.....	8	10	18
21. Other Circulatory Disease.....	6	4	10
22. Influenza.....	-	1	1
23. Pneumonia.....	8	6	14
24. Bronchitis.....	3	4	7
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System.....	2	-	2
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum.....	1	-	1
27. Gastritis: Enteritis: Diarrhoea.....	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis.....	-	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate.....	2	-	2
30. Pregnancy: Childbirth: Abortion.....	-	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations.....	-	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases....	11	14	25
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents.....	1	1	2
34. All other Accidents.....	3	4	7
35. Suicide.....	4	-	4
36. Homicide.....	-	-	-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN 1956.

<u>Infectious Disease</u>	<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1-4</u>	<u>5-14</u>	<u>15-24</u>	<u>25-44</u>	<u>45-65</u>	<u>Over 65</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
Measles	-	5	20	-	-	-	-	25
Whooping Cough	2	11	17	-	-	-	-	30
Scarlet Fever	-	2	2	-	1	-	-	5
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	4
Tuberculosis:- Respiratory	-	-	-	3	8	-	1	12
Other forms.	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
Total.	2	19	40	3	9	3	2	78

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

1956, like 1955 was a year of comparative freedom from notifiable infectious diseases. Measles and Whooping Cough in small localised outbreaks, at Gayton for the former, and Castleacre and West Winch for the latter provided most of the cases reported.

Influenza was common in the first quarter of the year, particularly at the end of January and in February. There were no particular features to distinguish it from previous outbreaks.

There were 14 new entries on the Tuberculosis Register; 12 of the Respiratory and 2 of the Non-Respiratory types of the disease. 7 Males and 5 Females had the first form of the disease. 3 of them were newcomers to the District and had already been Registered in the areas they had left.

Another case was reported from one of the Services, so the actual number of cases arising in the District was 8.

2 Cases were due to infections within the families. 1 of these was detected at the Mass X-Ray Unit that had been in King's Lynn in April and May. Many people from the District must have visited the Unit, but details of the attendances from different localities were not available.

The Unit visits the Area every second year. Its first visit was in 1950 when there were 6878 attendances. 8334 attended the Unit in 1956.

The use of the Mass X-Ray Unit reveals more than Tuberculosis. During its last visit it discovered 37 cases of 11 different varieties of Disease of the Heart and Lungs, almost all of them amenable in some degree to treatment

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

VACCINATION.

	<u>Primary.</u>	<u>Re-vaccination.</u>
Under 5 years	54	3
5 - 14 years	3	2
15 years and over	4	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	61	9
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The lowest number of Primary Vaccinations since 1949.

IMMUNISATIONS. (a) against DIPHTHERIA.

	<u>Primary.</u>	<u>Re-inforcing Injections.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Under 5 years	118	3	121
Over 5 years	13	54	67
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	131	57	188
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The response to the facilities offered for the Immunisation of Infants and young children was better than in 1955; 118 children under 5 being given Primary Immunisation against 77 in the previous year, an increase of 41.

(b) against POLIOMYELITIS.

The Ministry of Health made available a relatively small quantity of Poliomyelitis Vaccine for the immunisation of children born in selected months of the years 1947 - 1954. 51 children were immunised with the newly introduced vaccine without any upsets being reported.

HOUSING.

The Council at its Meeting on 20th December, 1956, made Slum Clearance Resolutions about the following areas, and submitted Clearance Orders regarding them to the Minister of Housing and Local Government:-

1. Freebridge Lynn: Area No.1. (Castle Street, Castleacre).
2. Freebridge Lynn: Area No.2. (Castle Street, Castleacre).
3. Freebridge Lynn: Area No.3. (Gipsy Bay Cottages,
Little Massingham).
4. Freebridge Lynn: Area No.4. (Garden Row, Ashwicken).
5. Freebridge Lynn: Area No.5. (Massingham Road, Grimston).
6. Freebridge Lynn: Area No.6. (Church Terrace, Gayton).
7. Freebridge Lynn: Area No.7. (Chequers Road, Grimston).
8. Freebridge Lynn: Area No.8. (Chequers Road, Grimston).
9. Freebridge Lynn: Area No.9. (Lynn Road, Roydon).

36 houses were involved.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No action was called for under the National Assistance Act, 1948, or the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS.

(a) Regulations under this Act came into operation on 1st January, and 1st July, 1956. Their purpose (section 13, Food and Drugs Act, 1955) is to secure the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions in connection with:-

- (a) The sale of food for human consumption,
- (b) The importation, preparation, transport, storage, packaging, wrapping, exposure for sale, service or delivery of food intended for sale, or sold for human consumption.

A summary of the Regulations, explaining their requirements was distributed to all engaged in the sale of food for human consumption.

(b) MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

There were no notification of Tuberculosis, or Brucella Abortus among cattle during the year.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT, 1950.

There was an outbreak of Anthrax among pigs. 9 cases were reported in February and 2 in April.

A bullock died of Anthrax in March.

The prescribed precautions were taken to prevent the spread of the disease.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Before the end of the year pipe-borne water supplies were available for every parish with the exception of Middleton, Castleacre, Castle Rising and Westacre.

Middleton would have water "laid on" not long after the end of the year, and provision was about to be made for Castleacre's own pipe-borne water supply.

With these exceptions, and by the end of the year, the water supplies of the District were generally,

- (a) Satisfactory in quality and,
- (b) Satisfactory in quantity.

ANALYSES.

(a) Combined Chemical and Bacteriological analyses were carried out on 9 occasions, mainly following the coming into use of new mains. Only 1 sample showed signs of organic contamination. Subsequent samples were satisfactory.

(b) 17 Samples were taken from Council Housing Estates, supplied from their local Borewells, before most of the Estates were linked up with the main water supply system. 3 were reported as "Unsatisfactory", 2 as "Suspicious". In 2 of these cases the results were due to faults in the Chlorinator. These were put right.

(c) 3 Samples of Harpley Dams water and 1 of the Sandringham supply were sent for Bacteriological examination. All were reported to be satisfactory.

(d) 25 Samples of Well water were also sent for Bacteriological analyses. 7 of the samples were classed as Satisfactory.

13 of these well samples were from different wells in Castleacre, and 11 of them were reported to be "Unsatisfactory". 2 Samples from Westacre were reported on as follows:-

1. Probable number of coliform bacilli25 per 100 ml.
Probable number of faecal coli25 per 100 ml.
2. Probable number of coliform bacilli25 per 100 ml.
Probable number of faecal coli13 per 100 ml.

Both waters showed signs of faecal contamination. The second well serves 8 cottages.

In all the Parishes, except Westacre, in which these wells are situated, pipe-borne water supplies were made available, or were soon to be made available, e.g. in Middleton, or would be provided in the near future. e.g. Castleacre

P I P E - B O R N E W A T E R S U P P L I E S .

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Supplied to</u> <u>Properties.</u>		<u>Supplied by</u> <u>Public Standpipes.</u>	
	<u>No. of</u> <u>Houses.</u>	<u>Approx.</u> <u>Population.</u>	<u>No. of</u> <u>Houses.</u>	<u>Approx.</u> <u>Population</u>
Bawsey	44	88	-	-
Castleacre	76	266	-	-
Castle Rising... ..	25*	75*	46*	138*
Congham	31	109	-	-
Flitcham... ..	55	193	-	-
Gayton	163	571	-	-
Grimston... ..	208	728	-	-
Harpley	112	392	-	-
Hillington.	53	186	-	-
Leziate	135	473	-	-
Great Massingham ...	255	893	-	-
Little Massingham ...	34	119	-	-
Middleton..	116	516	-	-
Pentney	31	109	-	-
Roydon	22	72	-	-
North Runcton... ..	68	238	-	-
S. ndringham	198	668	-	-
East Walton	3	11	-	-
Westacre... ..	18	63	-	-
East Winch.	72	252	-	-
West Winch.	151	529	-	-
North Wootton... ..	138	419	-	-
South Wootton... ..	259	772	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2267	7742	46	138
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

* Private Supply provided by Castle Rising Estate.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

SURVEYOR AND CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR ENDING 1956.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Report for the year ended 31st December, 1956.

INSPECTIONS.

The number of inspections and visits made in conjunction with the various branches of Public Health work during the year are as follows:-

<u>Nature of Inspections.</u>	<u>No. of Visits.</u>	<u>Total No. of Visits.</u>
PUBLIC HEALTH ACT:		
Sanitary Appliances	18	
Drainage, including Ditches	224	
Cesspools, alterations etc	48	
Keeping of Animals	3	
Dirty or Verminous Premises	9	
Water Supplies	184	
Water Samples	62	
Sewerage	164	
Refuse Tips	76	
Building Byelaws... ..	558	1351
FOOD:		
Food Premises for Byelaws etc.. ...	10	
Ice Cream Samples..	4	
Slaughter houses or Knackers Yards	203	217
PETROLEUM ACTS:		
No. of Applications, Site Inspections	4	4
HOUSING:		
For repairs and Slum Clearance ...	196	
Overcrowding, or Poor Living Conditions..	2	
Improvement Grants/Small Dwellings...	109	
Council Estates	103	410
MOVABLE DWELLINGS:		
Site Inspection	11	
No. of Dwellings Inspected.	15	26
INFECTIOUS DISEASES:		
Investigations	25	
Collection of Specimens	4	30
PETS ACT:		
Supervisor Inspections	21	21
FACORIES ACT:		
Factories Visited..	25	25
DISEASES OF ANIMALS:		
Anthrax	7	7

HOUSING.

Although all the necessary particulars in connection with the repair, closing or demolition of dwellings, has now to be submitted to the Ministry in the form of a quarterly return, for the benefit of Members this information is also included in this Report, and is as follows:-

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

Preliminary Notices Served... .. 3

Statutory Notices Served..... -

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Preliminary Notices Served..... 8

Statutory Notices Served..... 2

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS)

ACT, 1953.

Closing Orders Made..... 1

Under the Small Dwellings (Acquisitions) Acts and/or the Housing Act, 1949, a total of 4 applications for loans was received. Of these number, and after due consideration 3 were approved by the Council. It will be observed that compared with the figures of recent years, the number of applications for loans of this nature, has decreased most markedly. One is safe in saying this is due, partly to the increased cost of building, but mainly to the high rate of loan interest. Slowing down of private building to this extent is, in my opinion, to be regretted.

Throughout the year, 26 applications for grants under the Housing Act 1949 as amended by Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 were received, of which 23 were approved. This is an increase of 47% in the number of applications received, and as compared with the previous year.

Although maximum grant of 50% was not given in every instance, each case was carefully considered on its merits.

Below is given, as a matter of interest, some details relative to the grants which were actually approved.

1. No. of dwellings in respect of which Improvement Grants have been approved	23
2. No. of such dwellings owner-occupied.....	4 = 17%
3. No. of such dwellings occupied by tenants.....	19 = 83%
4. Total of "approved expenditure".....	£13,035
5. Total of approved grants.....	£ 5,121
6. Average grant per dwelling.....	£ 223

NOTE: Each £100 grant costs the Council £2. 1. 6d per annum (interest and repayment on 25% of grant).

During the year, a start was made on the Slum Clearance programme, and in November a total of 54 dwellings were brought before the Council for necessary action. Of these, 36 dwellings comprising 9 Clearance Areas were in the form of an "official representation" brought before you by the Medical Officer of Health, under section 25, Housing Act 1936.

The Council agreed that the remainder should be dealt with as "individually unfit" under section 11, of the same Act.

The number of new Council dwellings erected amounted to 20, consisting of 13 houses and 7 bungalows, in addition, a further 12 dwellings were well under construction and nearing completion.

It will be noted, that these figures are infinitely lower than of previous years, and is due of course, to the Council's decision to cease all building work, other than for slum clearance purposes.

NEW BUILDINGS.

During 1956, 150 plans were submitted under Building Byelaws and/or Town and Country Planning Acts, of which 149 were approved and one refused.

The following 77 approvals were for new dwellings:-

By the Council.

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Houses.</u>	<u>Bungalows.</u>
Harpley	10	-
Roydon	2	-

By Private Enterprise.

Congham	-	7
Grimston... ..	1	3
Hillington	-	1
Leziate	1	1
Great Massingham... ..	6	-
Middleton	-	1
East Winch	-	3
West Winch	-	24
South Wootton.. ...	2	15
	<u>22</u>	<u>55</u>

33 plans were approved for improvements and/or additions to existing properties, and the remaining 39 approvals were for miscellaneous purposes i.e. garages, stores, etc.

During the year, the following 69 new dwellings were completed, and 41 were in course of erection.

<u>By the Council.</u>	<u>Completed.</u>		<u>Being Built</u>	
	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Bungalows</u>	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Bungalows</u>
Harpley	4	-	10	-
Great Massingham... ..	1	7	-	-
Roydon	8	-	2	-
<u>By Private Enterprise.</u>				
Castleacre	1	-	-	-
Gayton	-	1	-	-
Grimston... ..	1	1	1	-
Hillington.	-	-	-	1
Leziate	1	2	1	2
Great Massingham... ..	-	-	2	-
Little Massingham.. ...	1	-	-	-
Middleton	-	2	-	-
Roydon	1	1	4	-
East Walton	2	-	-	-
Westacre... ..	2	-	-	-
West Winch	-	9	-	9
South Wootton.. ...	1	23	2	7
	<u>23</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>19</u>

WATER SUPPLIES.

The year 1956 has been a most active one as regards the water undertaking.

With the Regional Water Scheme already completed, the Subsidiary Mains scheme was then embarked upon and also completed, and this has meant that the work of making water connections has kept the staff fully occupied. During the year, 524 private connections were made to the Council's mains, and 92 water meters were fixed at business or agricultural premises.

In addition, the maintenance and attendance to all plumbing repair works at Council Estates was taken over from the Housing Direct Labour department, which additional work necessitated the purchase of a new 8 h.p. vehicle to maintain a satisfactory service.

During the year, a new pump was installed at the Appleton Water Works; also the High Level Storage tank at Lt. Massingham, which is to be used in the Castleacre Water Scheme, was dismantled.

Proposals for this latter scheme were submitted to the Ministry, and approval in principle was received in due course.

The number of water samples taken was 62 with results as follows:-

FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL OR CHEMICAL EXAMINATION.

Number of samples proved satisfactory	33
Number of samples regarded as suspicious	4
Number of samples proved to be unsatisfactory	24
Number of samples delayed in transit	1

Total Number of Samples.

62

At present, the Water Department staff consists of the Water Superintendent, two plumbers, one pipe fitter and six labourers, an increase of one labourer over last year. However, with the great amount of work in hand, and this has been the busiest year, regarding water supplies, in the history of the Council, all the staff have been fully employed; it is pleasing to report that whilst carrying out all the hundreds of house connections that have been made, many householders have expressed their appreciation of the good work of the departments water staff, which I think is worthy of mention.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

All the Council's small sewage disposal plants were serviced regularly. In the case of two plants the filtering media was completely renewed, which work brought about distinct improvement in the general working of the plants in question.

During the year, consideration was given by the Council to the question of sewerage the Parishes of South Wootton and West Winch, and with this object in view, a special Sub-Committee made a detailed inspection of both Parishes, at the conclusion of which it was agreed to employ a Civil Engineer to prepare sewerage schemes for submission to the Ministry.

SCAVENGING.

With the exception of South Wootton which was serviced weekly, the whole of the District received a fortnightly refuse collection service.

The purchase of an additional 10 cu.yard refuse collector with proper sliding covers, saw an end to the unsatisfactory system of refuse collection by open lorries, and the last vehicle of this type was put in store at the Depot, and kept for use in emergency only.

All the Council's refuse tips have received regular attention, and have been kept free from rats and other vermin.

In summer months tips were treated with insecticide dressing and no complaints regarding smell or fly nuisance have been received.

Throughout the year, a weekly collection of night-soil was made in the Parishes of Harpley, Lt.Massingham, Gt.Massingham and Castleacre.

This service is borne by the General Rate, for which the whole District contributes, and in view of this, the Council should give serious consideration to the question of extending this service, particularly to some of the other larger Parishes. I fully appreciate this subject is becoming a hardy annual, as it has been mentioned so regularly in previous Reports. It is to be hoped, that on this occasion however, the Council will decide to act upon the recommendation and issue an instruction for a report to be prepared with a view to an extension of this service to a far greater portion of the District.

During the year, cesspools emptied were as follows -
59 Council properties comprising 170 loads, 218 Private Residences comprising 370 loads, and the total revenue for this service amounted to £495.

Towards the end of the year the whole of the Public Cleansing department was transferred from Great Massingham to Gayton and took up occupation of the Orchard Barn, formerly used as the Council's Housing Depot. This centralisation of all three outdoor departments, with the added provision of our own petrol pump at these same premises, has contributed materially towards greater efficiency, and is clearly the most economical means of maintaining these necessary services.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Investigations into various cases of infectious diseases were made incurring 26 visits, and the collection of 4 specimens. Under the Diseases of Animals Act, seven visits were made primarily for anthrax, or suspected anthrax.

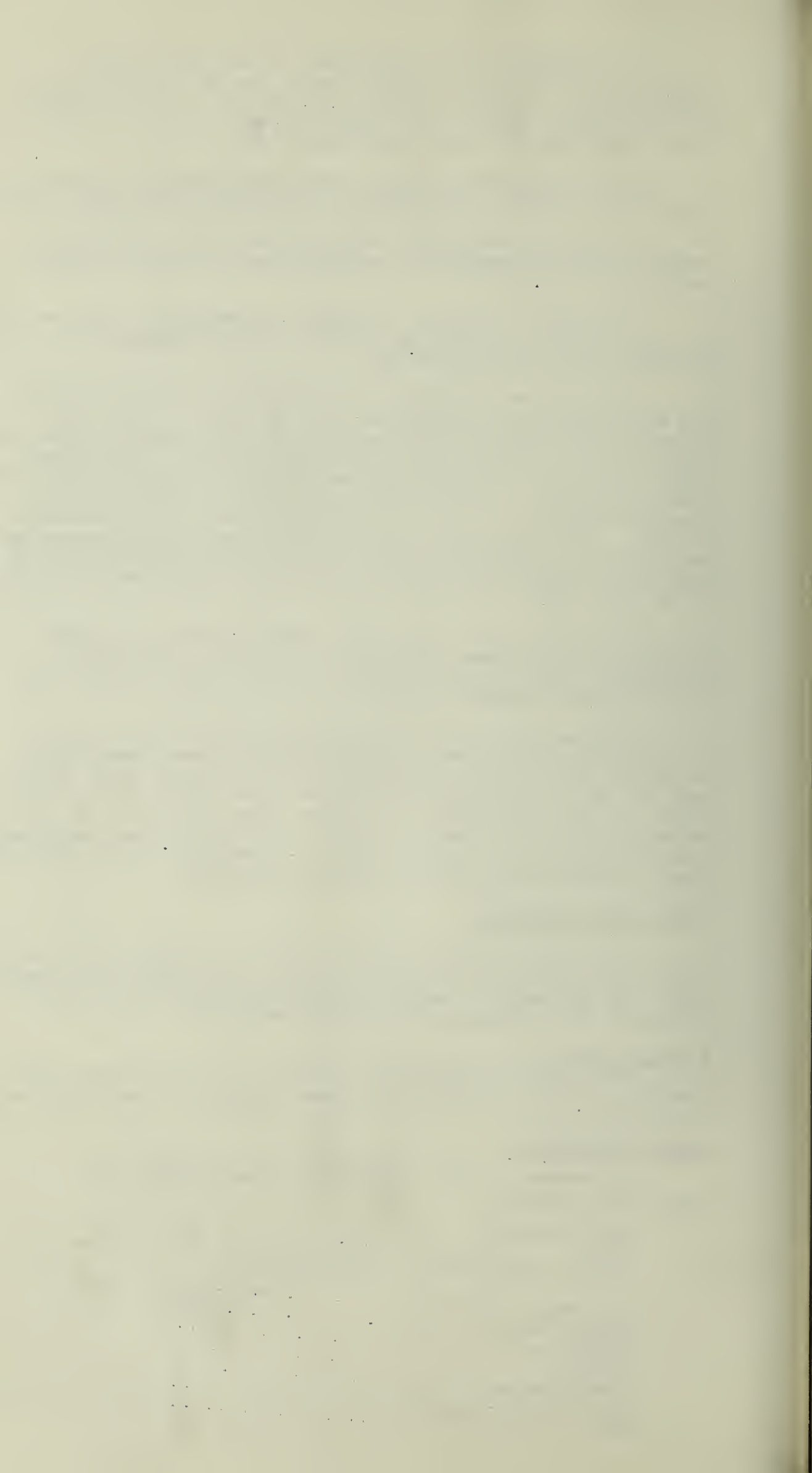
KNACKERS YARDS.

The number of licensed premises in the district still remains at two, and both businesses continue to be conducted satisfactorily.

FOOD INSPECTIONS.

The number of food premises in the district are classified below:-

Public Houses	. . . . .	37
Clubs	. . . . .	6
Grocers (including 1 mobile grocery bus)	. . . . .	36
Ice Cream retailers.	. . . . .	22
Confectioners	. . . . .	13
Bakehouses	. . . . .	9
Butchers	. . . . .	7
Greengrocers.	. . . . .	2
Fish & chip (including vans)	. . . . .	3
Cafe	. . . . .	1



There are 29 premises registered under Sec.6 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, viz. ice cream retailers, and retailers of sausages, cooked meats or preserved foods.

No dairies under the Council's jurisdiction now exist in the area, and the number of licensed retailers is now eight with three supplementary licence holders, all receiving their supplies already bottled and pasteurised.

Regular visits to carry out meat inspection at the two licensed slaughterhouses, and occasional routine visits to the two knackers yards totalled 203.

The record of carcasses inspected and condemnations carried out is tabulated below:-

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses.
Number killed.	156	2	2	10	387	--
Number inspected.	156	2	2	10	387	--
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.	--	--	--	--	--	--
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	27	--	--	--	5	--
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.	17½	--	--	--	1½	--
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	--	--	--	--	--	--
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	10	--	--	--	10	--
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	6½	--	--	--	2½	--
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	--	--	--	--	--	--
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	--	--	--	--	--	--
Generalised and totally condemned.	--	--	--	--	--	--

No large quantity of condemned food had to be disposed of, the small quantities of condemned meat being buried locally.

Four typical ice-cream samples were taken and all passed the usual test, being in Grade 1. All persons licensed are requested to sell only prepacked ice-cream, thus contributing considerably to reducing the risk of contamination which could otherwise occur.

A start has been made on implementing the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 - 1956, and in some cases shopkeepers have been most anxious to comply voluntarily with the relevant provisions of the regulations.

In general, the standard of cleanliness in foodshops throughout the district is and has been quite good, in spite of the lack, until recently of piped water in several parishes.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Of the 11 licensed sites, 4 are of some size and seven for single dwellings. 11 visits to the sites were made during the year, and 15 dwellings were inspected for cleanliness, or for approval prior to licensing.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

The relevant statistics are as follows:-

Total No. of Factories with power	23
Total No. of Factories without power	2
Total No. of Factories.. .. .	25
Total No. of defects found and remedied	1
Total No. of Visits made	25

PESTS ACT, 1949.

Brief details of the Rodent Operator's work during the year are tabulated below:-

	<u>Premises</u> <u>Treated.</u>	<u>Visits, Surveys</u> <u>and Inspections.</u>
FREE.		
Council Property.	24	124
(excluding Housing Sites).	1,149	3,937
Private and Council Houses.		
CHARGEABLE.		
Business Premises.	31	173
Farms.	87	439
Totals.	1,291	4,673

CONCLUSION.

Members will see from the Report that the year has been one of considerable activity, particularly with regard to Water Supply and the making of house connections throughout the District.

Inevitably, the growth of the Council as a Water Undertaking has resulted in considerable extra work, evolved in the keeping of stores and equipment at the Depot, and the necessary files and records at the office.

Indeed, the time is approaching when the Council should consider the appointment of an additional junior clerical assistant to assist in this work, and in the book keeping involved in the administration of the Housing Department.

As regards Housing, it is interesting to note, that whereas the number of houses erected by the Council is less than in previous years, the number built privately is substantially the same, 69 as against 70 for last year. There has been an increase of 47% in the number of applications received for improvement grants. By the end of the year a reasonable start had been made on the Slum Clearance programme, and a total of 36 houses were scheduled for demolition.

The Council is aware of the need for the sewerage of South Wootton and West Winch, and their prompt action in deciding to face up to these problems is to be commended.

I would like to thank the Chairman and Members for their kindness, and the Clerk of the Council and Medical Officer of Health for their valued assistance and co-operation.

I would not wish to conclude without expressing my deep appreciation of the great help I have received from the whole of the technical staff.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

W. R. WATKINS.

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector

